

CHRIST CHURCH GEELONG
AN ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

24th December, 2023

'A community of faith in service to others'

Dear people of God

Christmas greetings!

As we draw closer and closer to the end of the year, we look back with joy and full of gratitude for what God has done for us thus far. We are forever indebted to God for all the love received. This time of the year is a reminder of the same love and this is when God becomes human in the person of Jesus to join us where we are. God assumes human nature in order to be with us physically and this is a constant reminder of this love. In the midst of this love, there is also great suffering, hurt, pain, hate, violence, separations, sense of loss, brokenness and evil, but God's love for us has always remained the same. This is the love we are called to show to all despite what is going in life. We acknowledge the great pain suffered by those who lost their loved ones recently in our Parish. May you continue to experience this love even in the midst of your pain!

Christmas is the time of love and joy, but this time around as we celebrate Christmas the world and mother earth are also bleeding from the violence, hate and evil happening at this time. Our fellow sisters and brothers from other parts of the world continue to live in fear. There is war and lack of peace. There is economic strain and the future looks blurry to some people. There are domestic fights within our families and all that denies all God's people to realize this love and the joy. In the midst of all these uncertainties, violence and hate, the light that is brought about by Jesus' birth overshines all darkness and as St John reminds us "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:5).

Let us go into Christmas and beyond with the understanding that we are to bring this light to the "darkened" situations heading into the new year. Be assured of our love and prayers for you all. We wish you all safe journeys for those travelling at this time of the year.

By way of reminder once again, our remaining services for the year are as follows: Children's Service tonight at 5pm; and Midnight Mass 10.30pm
Christmas Day 09.00am (ONLY ONE SERVICE)
New Year's Eve (Sunday 31) two services at 08.00 and 10.00am.

There are two services on Sundays throughout January 2024 at 08.00 and 10.00am. The midweek Eucharist will also continue at its normal slot.

All will come back to normal again in February with the Start Up Service on Sunday the 4th February 2024.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Fr Lankiri

NOTICES

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY (ST THOMAS, APOSTLE AND MARTYR DAY 21 DECEMBER)

We congratulate Fr Andrew Constance for his 47th Ordination Anniversary. We thank God for what Fr Andrew has done to serve God in this Holy Order. Fr Andrew after his ordination served at several Parishes before he became Chaplain at the Navy. He served at St Mark's in North Aubrey in New South Wales just across the border for two years, then moved to Koorawatha at St James for three years. His last Parish where he served as Rector (Vicar) was at St Alban's in Lyons, Canberra for ten years. Fr Andrew was chaplain to the Navy for fifteen years before he retired. He is now worshipping at Christ Church in Geelong.

On the same day of the St Thomas, Apostle and Martyr, Fr Lankiri Thaba was also ordained to priesthood in the Diocese of Lesotho in 1997. Fr Lankiri has served in many parishes in the Diocese of Lesotho before him and his family relocated to South Africa where he served for 14 for the Diocese of Johannesburg and three years for the Diocese of Cape Town. We thank God for these servants and for their ministry in God's Church.


Reminder: The 2023 Carol Service

A recording was made of the *Service of Nine Lessons and Carols* held on Sunday 10th December – so if you missed the service or would like to listen again to the carols sung by the choir and congregation, just follow the links to "What's on Now?" or "Celebrations & Photos" on the parish web page... and if you listen closely to the final bars of the '*Hallelujah Chorus*' played by Winton Barry to conclude this service, you may be able to hear the sound of Fr Lankiri singing along with the organ for the final notes – wonderful!

Phillip Swain

Act for Peace

Fourth Sunday of Advent



Showing Love to the most vulnerable

Sisters Srinidhi* and Mahira* are Sri Lankan refugees who have been living in refugee camps in India for decades and aren't able to access medical care outside the camps. OfERR, a refugee-run organisation supported by Act for Peace, has been providing crucial support in the camps for over 40 years. Through the Christmas Bowl you can help send health workers into the camps and provide medical care to those who need it. **Please give today.**

*Names changed for safety reasons.

CALL: 1800 025 101 VISIT: christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au

The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international humanitarian agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 95 619 920 198

Please note there is a Hearing Loop installed in the Church that provides a wireless signal picked up by the hearing aid when it is set to 'T' (Telecoil).

Our Contacts

Vicar	The Reverend Lankiri Thaba (0435 109 914) Email – let.theology@gmail.com
Clergy Team	The Reverends Andrew Constance, John Howells (5244 0649) & Barry Smith (0409 409 473)
Office	Phone 5221 8055 and leave a message Email – enquiries@christchurchgeelong.org Web page: www.christchurchgeelong.com.au
Organist	Winton Barry
Office Admin	Patricia Cowling

CHRISTMAS EVE—24TH DECEMBER

Children's & Family Service at 5pm
Midnight Mass at 10.30pm



CHRISTMAS DAY

Holy Eucharist at 9.00am only!
(Note: No 5.15pm service on Christmas Day)

THE WEEK AHEAD

Wednesday, 27th Holy Eucharist at 10am

NEW YEAR'S EVE—NEXT SUNDAY, 31ST DECEMBER

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

Holy Eucharist at 8am & 10am
(Note: No 5.15pm service on New Year's Eve)

SERVICES IN THE NEW YEAR

Holy Eucharist at 8am & 10am on Sundays
Holy Eucharist at 10am on Wednesdays
(Note: No Holy Eucharist at 5.15pm on Sundays
or Meditation sessions during January)

We acknowledge the Wadawurrung people of the Kulin Nation as the traditional custodians of the lands on which Christ Church and its building now stand.

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